



# NEWS RELEASE

**Today's Date:** January 28, 2011  
**District:** District 2 - Redding  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Local Transportation Agencies Seek Small Businesses

With the start of construction season comes more opportunities for our local small businesses. The State recognizes there are more than one million small businesses, which employ more than 6.8 million people, making up more than 50% of California's workforce.

The State of California's policy is to promote small business and disabled veteran business participation in its procurement and contracting processes by requiring all State agencies, departments, boards, and commissions to achieve a goal of 25 percent for small business participation and five percent for disabled veteran businesses.

Small Businesses are the engine that drive our economy back to recovery and spur growth in local areas. Around the State, various agencies are partnering to provide educational opportunities to businesses to learn how they can do business with city, county, and State departments.

Caltrans, the City of Redding, and Shasta County are offering a Small Business Workshop and Contractor Outreach event. Businesses can learn how to become a certified business with the State. This free and easy process helps businesses market their products, goods, and services; and notify potential bidders of opportunities advertised in their specific area of interest. The Small Business Workshop and Contractor Outreach is being held on Tuesday, February 8, 2011, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Shasta Builders Exchange in Redding.

Additionally, Caltrans will show attendees how to navigate the Caltrans website to find commodities and services available for bid. Although many items are related to construction type work, there are also contracts that become available for heating and air, elevator maintenance, janitorial, sand, cinder, and other materials and commodities such as office supplies, warehouse items, etc.

A contractor outreach will be held to discuss how local agencies are similar and different in their project advertisement, policies, and procedures regarding transportation and public works contracting. Information about upcoming projects for 2011 and 2012 will be available. This "Project Look Ahead" is typically used by contractors to plan for additional personnel or equipment resources, funding allotment, estimating insurance or bonding needs, and so on.

"It's important for businesses to use these opportunities to further educate themselves and to network with other companies. In today's economy, businesses should not underestimate the value these workshops can provide," said John Bulinski, Caltrans District 2 Director.

For more information, please visit <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist2/smbusiness/eventform.htm> or by calling Becky Alexander at (530) 229-0561.

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